WISDOM

The Wisdom of Solomon

17

1611 King James Version

Compiled By M. Love

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The Wisdom of Solomon 17

17:1 For great are thy Judgments, and cannot be expressed: therefore unnurtured souls have erred.
17:2 For when unrighteous men thought to oppress the holy nation: they being shut up in their houses, the prisoners

of darkness, and fettered with the bonds of a long night, lay there exiled from the eternal providence.
17:3 For while they supposed to lie hid in their secret sins, they were scattered under a dark veil of forgetfulness, being horribly astonished, and troubled with

(strange) apparitions.
17:4 For neither might the corner that held them keep them from fear: but noises (as of waters) falling down, sounded about them, and sad visions appeared unto them with heavy countenances.
17:5 No power of the fire might give them light: neither could the

bright flames of the stars endure to lighten that horrible night.
17:6 Only there appeared unto them a fire kindled of itself, very dreadful: for being much terrified, they thought the things which they saw to be worse than the sight they saw not.
17:7 As for the illusions of art Magick, they

were put down,
and their vaunting in
wisdom was reproved
with disgrace.
17:8 For they that
promised to drive
away terrors, and
troubles from a sick
soul, were sick
themselves of
fear worthy to be
laughed at.
17:9 For though no
terrible thing did fear

them: yet being scared with beasts that passed by, and hissing of serpents,
17:10 They died for fear, denying that they saw the air, which could of no side be avoided.
17:11 For wickedness condemned by her own witness, is very timorous, and being pressed with conscience, always

forecasteth grievous things.

17:12 For fear is nothing else, but a betraying of the succours which reason offereth.

17:13 And the expectation from within being less, counteth the ignorance more than the cause which bringeth the torment.

17:14 But they sleeping the same sleep that night which was indeed intolerable, and which came upon them out of the bottoms of inevitable hell:
17:15 Were partly vexed with monstrous apparitions, and partly fainted, their heart failing them: for a sudden fear and not

looked for, came upon them.
17:16 So then, whosoever there fell down, was straitly kept, shut up in a prison without iron bars.
17:17 For whether he were husbandman, or shepherd, or a labourer in the field, he was overtaken, and endured that

necessity, which could not be avoided: for they were all bound with one chain of darkness.

17:18 Whether it were a whistling wind, or a melodious noise of birds among the spreading branches, or a pleasing fall of water running violently:

17:19 Or a terrible sound of stones cast down, or a running that could not be seen of skipping beasts, or a roaring voice of most savage wild beasts, or a rebounding Echo from the hollow mountains: these things made them to swoon for fear.

17:20 For the whole world shined with clear light, and none were hindered in their labour.
17:21 Over them only was spread an heavy night, an image of that darkness which should afterward receive them: but yet were they unto

themselves
more grievous
than the
darkness.